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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, IN

SUBJECT: SFCP PROPOSAL 129 "ROLE OF LIPID NUTRITION ON
PLATELET FUNCTION AND THROMBOSIS"

REFERENCES: (A) STATE A-46; (B) DELHI A-151

PASS TO SCIATT CLIFTON METZNER

1. NIH FORWARDED SUBJECT PROJECT WITH REF (A). IN REF (B)
EMBASSY REPORTED ICMR OPINION THAT "BEFORE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
STUDY IS UNDERTAKEN IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SMALL PILOT EX-
PERIMENT ON HUMAN SUBJECTS BE CARRIED OUT WITH DIFFERENT
TYPES OF FAT FOR DIFFERENT PERIODS OF TIME." NOT REPORTED
WHETHER ICMR INTENDED PRELIMINARY STUDIES TO BE MADE IN
INDIA OR ELSEWHERE.

2. EMBASSY CAN NOW REPORT TO ICMR THAT DIVISION OF BLOOD
DISEASES AND RESOURCES, NHLBI, CURRENTLY SUPPORTS FIELD
EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDY OF DIET AND PLATELET LIPID COMPOSITION
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AND PHYSIOLOGY IN MEN AGED 40-45 IN FRANCE, ITALY, AND

FINLAND. FOURTH STUDY OF AMERICAN FARMERS AGED 40-45 IN RURAL AREAS AROUND BELTSVILLE AND OTHER PARTS OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA UNDERWAY. PRELIMINARY DATA SUGGEST PRESENCE OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGGREGATION CHARACTERISTICS

PLATELETS IN INDIVIDUALS CONSUMING DIETS CONTAINING DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF SATURATED FATS. THERE APPEAR TO BE ESPECIALLY WIDE DIFFERENCES IN HIGH LEVELS OF FATTY THROMBOGENIC INDICES IN POPULATIONS USING SATURATED FAT, I.E. BUTTER FAT FOUND IN FINLAND, AS COMPARED TO SUBJECTS IN CANINO, ITALY, USING OLIVE OIL, AN UNSATURATED FAT, AS PRIMARY SOURCE OF FAT.

3. FROM NECESSITY, THESE STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHERE DIETS ARE MORE HOMOGENEOUS THAN THOSE IN U.S. UNFORTUNATELY, EUROPEAN DIETS AND, TO EVEN GREATER EXTENT, U.S. DIETS ARE STILL HETEROGENEOUS ENOUGH TO PREVENT CLEARCUT INTERPRETATION OF DATA. IT WOULD BE QUITE ADVANTAGEOUS TO STUDY POPULATION USING DISCRETE SOURCES OF FAT, SUCH AS EXISTS IN INDIA. FURTHERMORE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR NIH AND USDA TO MAKE STUDIES OF DIETS AND OILS REFERRED TO BY ICMR, NAMELY SESAME OIL, GROUNDNUT OIL, HYDROGENATED FATS, AND COCONUT OIL, EXCEPT IN INDIA.

4. COOPERATIVE STUDY BETWEEN NHLBI; U.S. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA; AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH SHOULD PROVIDE EXCEEDINGLY VALUABLE DATA UNOBTAINABLE IN U.S. OR WESTERN EUROPE. U.S. RESEARCHERS WOULD PREFER TO INITIATE FULL-SCALE STUDY IN INDIA. HOWEVER, DR. GOPAL KRISHNA REPORTS THAT APPROVAL FOR PRELIMINARY PILOT STUDY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF AGREEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED FOR PLANNING AND CONDUCTING MORE DETAILED AND EXTENSIVE STUDIES AFTER ANALYSIS OF PILOT STUDY RESULTS.

5. DR. JAMES M. IACONO, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA, WASHINGTON, WILL VISIT INDIA ON USDA BUSINESS NOVEMBER 15. DETAILS OF TRIP CAN BE OBTAINED LOCALLY FROM WALTER CARLTON, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, WITH WHOM IACONO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT. DURING VISIT IACONO PLANS TO DISCUSS STATUS OF THIS PROPOSAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTENT OF ICMR INTEREST WITH DR. C. GOPALAN. IF ICMR REACTS FAVORABLY, NHLBI PLANS TO SEND KRISHNA, VISITING SCIENTIST, LABORATORY CHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY, NHLBI; DR. GARY NELSON, BLOOD DISEASES BRANCH, NHLBI; AND DR. RODOLFO PAOLETTI, UNIVERSITY OF MILAN, ITALY FOR STUDY WITH ICMR AND RESEARCHERS AND INSTITUTIONS DESIGNATED BY IT FOR COLLABORATION IN THIS STUDY.

6. THIS PROPOSAL DISCUSSED BRIEFLY DURING GOPALAN'S RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF IT. HE WAS INFORMED OF ABOVE PRELIMINARY STUDIES AND REQUESTED A COPY OF PROPOSAL AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND LATER DISCUSSION DURING HIS VISIT. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED.

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7. SCIATT REQUESTED TO (1) INFORM GOPALAN OF IACONO'S PLANS TO VISIT ICMR FOR DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL; (2) OBTAIN FROM ICMR INFORMAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER IT CAN JUSTIFY PROJECT TO GOI AS REQUIRING COLLABORATION; (3) OBTAIN ICMR RECOMMENDATIONS, IF PROJECT CONSIDERED FEASIBLE AS COLLABORATIVE STUDY, AS TO RESEARCHERS AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTACTED BY U.S. INVESTIGATORS CONCERNING FIRM PLANS; (4) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO NIH FOLLOWING IACONO'S VISIT CONCERNING ADVISABILITY OF TEAM VISIT FOR PLANNING STUDY IN EARLY JANUARY, 1977. KISSINGER

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